(c) whether any study has been done on air traffic projections in India for the next 15 years;

(d) if so, in what way will Government try to develop at least two airports for all major urban areas in the country; and

(e) the steps proposed in this regard to sustain at least two airports for big cities in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) As per the extant policy on Airport Infrastructure, a Greenfield Airport may be permitted where an existing airport is unable to meet the projected requirements of traffic or a new focal point of traffic emerges with sufficient viability. A study has been conducted on air traffic projections in India for the next 15 years. Government have given "in-principle" approval for setting up a greenfield airport at Navi Mumbai. This airport will operate together with the existing Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai. Additional airports would be developed in major cities contingent upon occurence of trigger point in terms traffic growth.

Number of commercial aircrafts and pilots

†911. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of registered commercial aircrafts at present;

(b) the increase expected in the number of these aircrafts in the coming three years;

(c) whether the number of pilots is less in proportion to the number of flights of the aircrafts; and

(d) if so, the action plan formulated by Government to meet this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) At present, the number of registered commercial aircrafts is 516. An estimated 230 such aircrafts are expected to be added in the coming three years.

(c) and (d) Due to the recent boom in Civil Aviation, airlines are going in for fleet expansion, because of which shortage of trained pilots is being felt by the aviation industry. The Government has taken various steps to reduce the gap between demand and supply of skilled pilots. These include conditionally increasing the age-limit to 65 years for exercising the privileges of their licences for commercial transport operations under certain prescribed conditions for pilots, upgradation and modernisation of training infrastructure of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) to enhance its training capacity, setting up of a world class flying training institute at Gondia, Maharashtra and assistance to flying clubs by allocating trainer aircraft through Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)/Aero Club of India

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ACI). Besides, DGCA has approved a total of 26 flying training institutes (including IGRUA) for imparting Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) training.

Opening of Bidar airport for civilian air services

912. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has requested the Centre to permit operation of civilian aircrafts at the airports at Bidar and Karwar which are currently under the Defence Ministry; and

(b) if so, the details of each proposal and Centre's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) carried out inspection of proposed site of Naval Airort at Karwar and gave the suggestion for Runway alignment and additional land required for providing Runway suitable for operation of civil flights. AAI has also carried out inspection of Bidar Airforce Station alongwith State Government and Airforce officials for initial feasibility and site inspection of Civil Enclave at Bidar. Feasibility report has been submitted to Government of Karnataka to obtain NOC from Ministry of Defence and availability and handing over of the required land to AAI free of cost for the establishment of Civil Enclave at Bidar.

Development of unused airstrips

†913. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some States have such airstrips which are not used;

(b) if so, the details of such airstrips, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have formulated any scheme for the development of such airstrips; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State-wise details of such airstrips are as follows: Andhra Pradesh–6, Arunachal Pradesh–1, Assam–7, Bihar–22, Gujarat–11, Jammu & Kashmir–8, Jharkhand–3, Chhattisgarh–2, Maharashtra–7, Mizoram–1, Rajasthan–18, Orissa–18, West Bengal–16, Madhya Pradesh–11, Punjab–5, Haryana–1, Tamil Nadu–2, Meghalaya–1, Karnataka–5, Manipur–2, Uttar Pradesh–4, Tripura–1, Nagaland–1.

(c) and (d) The Airports Authority of India (AAI) have decided to take up developmental works in coordination with the State Governments at some of the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.